

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,271,653 to Wolf in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,204,021 to Becker.

It is submitted that none of the prior art teaches or suggests Applicant's step (f) in base claim 11 which requires the step of "...removing the upstanding peaks of metal ceramic to provide a non-stick surface defined by flat bare metal-ceramic portions and flat impregnated cured release agent areas substantially co-planar therewith."

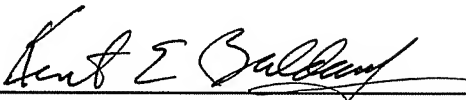
The prior art of record does not teach or suggest this step. Wolf teaches at col. 3, lines 52-59, that the non-stick agent is "applied in sufficient quantity to provide a thin body of agent above the uppermost points of the sprayed coating...". After thermal curing of the non-stick agent, Wolf teaches that the surface be lightly buffed to remove all excess non-stick agent above the sprayed coating so that the finished surface comprises many areas of non-stick agent surrounding points of the sprayed material. As taught throughout Wolf, the buffing step is intended to remove only the excess cured non-stick agent and the buffing is referred to as "lightly" buffing, see, for example, col. 4, line 48; and col. 5, line 15. Flat bare metal areas as presently claimed are clearly not formed by the light buffing step taught by Wolf, see, for example, col. 5, lines 25-27, which teaches buffing the surface of the cured non-stick material until peaks of the original metal surface "begin to break through the layer of non-stick agent." There is no teaching that the buffing is to continue so as to form flat bare metal portions as required in base claim 11 and dependent claims 12-17.

In addition, the prior art of record does not fairly teach or suggest a metal-ceramic layer of chromium oxide having a porosity of about 7% by volume.

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The Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action with respect to claims 11-17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

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